

**METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR INDEXING DATA IN A DATABASE AND
FOR RETRIEVING DATA FROM A DATABASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH
QUERIES USING EXAMPLE SETS**

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A computer-based technique is provided for retrieving one or more items from a
database in response to a query specified by a user via one or more example sets.
Preferably the example sets include multiple positive and negative example sets. The
method comprises the following steps. First, a scoring function is constructed from the
one or more example sets. The scoring function gives higher scores to database items
10 that are more closely related to the query than to database items that are not as closely
related to the query. The scoring function is operable for use with a multidimensional
indexing structure associated with the database. Then, the one or more database items
that have the highest score as computed using the scoring function are retrieved via the
multidimensional indexing structure.

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